

FALCON FAMILY NEWS

September 2014



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USAFA'S PUBLIC CALENDER Link: (Managed by the Association of Graduates.)

<http://www.usafa.org/Calendar/Events>

CLASS STATISTICS (as of 31 August 2014)

Class Year	Men	Women	Total
2014	8	1	13
2015	680	188	868
2016	661	191	852
2017	832	250	1084
2018	893	244	1137
WING	3074	874	3948

❖ These numbers include international students.

THIS MONTH IN AIR FORCE ACADEMY HISTORY—HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY—1 APRIL:

1 September 1954 -- Brigadier General Robert M. Stillman is appointed as the first Commandant of Cadets. In 1994, the cadet parade field would be named Stillman Field, in his honor.

1 September 1999 – The Cadet Chapel’s second all-faiths room is opened for use.

2 September 1939 -- The official Army Air Corps song, which would become the Air Force Song, is officially introduced at the Cleveland Air Races. The writer of the song, Robert Crawford, sang it in its first public performance.

4 September 1997 -- The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) statue, “The WASP Trainee,” is dedicated. The memorial was sculpted by Dorothy Swain Lewis, a WASP veteran. She passed away on 9 September 2013, just shy of her 98th birthday. The statue is displayed on the Honor Court.

9 September 1972 -- Captain Charles DeBellevue becomes the first navigator ace, with his fifth and sixth kills. He earned his first four kills as Weapon Systems Operator for Captain Steve Ritchie, Class of ’64. DeBellevue had applied to, but been denied admission to, the Academy. Following the Vietnam War, he attended pilot training at Williams AFB, Arizona.

10 September 1967 -- The U.S. Olympic Committee names the Air Force Academy as a site for high-altitude training for gymnasts and swimmers preparing for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

15 September 1958 -- *Life* magazine runs an article, “Air Cadets Welcome Home,” describing the Cadet Wing’s move to its permanent site in Colorado Springs.

16 September 1972 -- Operational Plan Number 36-72, “Integration of Females into the Cadet Wing” is published. The Plan had a pink cover and came to be known as “The Pink Plan.” The Academy was very proactive in preparing for the admission of women, as the change would not be authorized until President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-106 more than three years later, on 7 October 1975.

18 September 1947 -- The Air Force officially becomes a separate service. W. Stuart Symington was sworn in as the first Secretary of the Air Force. With the Air Force a separate service, supporters intensified their push for a separate academy.

26 September 2002 -- David Letterman does a bit on his Late Show on CBS with cadets giving "The Top Ten Reasons I Came to the Air Force Academy." Reason number five: "Free socks!"

UPCOMING DATES 2014/2015:

19 Sep 14	Air Force Birthday Ball (Class of 2018)
30 Sep	Major's Night (Class of 2018)
31 Oct 14	Halloween Dance (Optional all classes)
25 Nov – 30 Nov	Thanksgiving Break LMD. Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 30 Nov 14
15 – 19 Dec 14	Finals
20 Dec – 4 Jan 15	Winter Break Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 4 Jan 15
20 Mar - 29 Mar 15	Spring Break (Last Military Duty [LMD]). Cadet Wing returns 7:00 pm on 29 Mar 15
13-14 Mar 15	Recognition
11-15 May 15	Finals
28 May 15	2015 Graduation
4-7 Sep 15	Parents' Weekend

Air Force Academy ranks high in Best Colleges Ranking report

9/9/2014 - **U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo.** -- The Air Force Academy ranks high among the nation's top universities in engineering and liberal arts courses, according to the 2015 Best Colleges Ranking report released Tuesday by U.S. News & World Report.

Specifically, the Academy has the nation's fifth-best undergraduate engineering program, and its second-best aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical program, a position it maintains for the 14th consecutive year. The Academy has the nation's second-best computer engineering program, its third-best electrical engineering program and its sixth-best in mechanical engineering program.

"We are thrilled at the continued, national recognition of our academic program," said Academy Dean of the Faculty Brig. Gen. Andrew Armacost. "To receive recognition not only as a national liberal arts college but in our engineering and management programs shows our commitment to a breadth of learning opportunities supported by a world-class faculty."

The Academy is the nation's 27th-best Liberal Arts College in the nation, tying with Colorado College and Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Penn. According to the list, the Academy also has one of the Best Undergraduate Business Programs, according to the list.

The Academy is third of the reports list of the top public schools, national liberal arts colleges and high school counselor rankings, for the second straight year.

The U.S. News & World Report staff conducted a nationwide sampling of public high schools and large private independent schools, asking counselors their thoughts on the institutions offering the best undergraduate education.

"To be alongside the other military service academies in this list of incredible colleges, highlights our commitment to a strong academic program woven tightly into our broad program of leadership and character development," Armacost said. "Our local partners, Colorado College and University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, also received outstanding recognition in these rankings. It's great to see the city of Colorado Springs well-represented on the national stage."

Forbes business magazine recently ranked the Academy as fourth-best college in the west and the 34th-best college in the nation.

The Academy's student-faculty ratio is 8:1, its average class size is 20 and all faculty members are employed fulltime.

Visit <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/united-states-air-force-academy-128328/overall-rankings> to see the full list.

Integrating athletes, other students leads to better academic performance

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123420541>

A study conducted by three instructors from the Air Force Academy and an assistant professor of finance at the University of Nebraska-Omaha found that making student athletes part of a closely knit student body helps them keep up with other students academically.

The study, "Minding the Terrazzo Gap between Athletes and Nonathletes: Representativeness, Integration, and Academic Performance at the U.S. Air Force Academy," was published in the Journal of Sports Economics in April. Its authors are Lt. Cols. Brian Payne, John Martin, and Jeffrey Merrell and Dr. Jeffery Bredthauer.

The impetus for the study was a 2010 report from the College Sports Project that showed student-athletes underperform other students across 84 Division III schools. Both the CSP report and the Academy's study define underperformance as the difference between the predicted average GPA for a group and the group's actual average GPA.

One challenge for the study was to compare intercollegiate athletes' performance to an expectation. A principal measure authors used was the Academic Composite Score, or ACACOMP, which includes cadets' high school GPA, class rank and quality of high school attended.

Based on ACACOMP scores, the authors predicted a GPA gap of 0.20 between intercollegiate athletes and non-intercollegiate athletes in the 2013-2016 graduating classes. They found the actual GPA gap to be 0.21, meaning the intercollegiate athletes performed almost exactly as the ACACOMP model predicted.

But because the authors expected someone might challenge the ACACOMP model, they devised an alternate measuring tool based on a cadet's intercollegiate athlete status, ACT scores, foreign language proficiency, demographic factors and whether the cadet attended a preparatory school. They came to similar results using this second model: The report states, "... being an IC (intercollegiate athlete) is almost universally not associated with a lower cumulative or core GPA."

"The integration of athletes into the overall academic and collegiate experience plays an important role in how athletes perform academically," Merrell said. "When they are segregated, this is a factor in lack of academic performance."

Air Force Academy cadets face constraints that students at other universities don't, Merrell said. They take a demanding core curriculum of 32 classes, in addition to any major-specific classes, and they must complete their education within eight semesters. In addition, they must complete other graduation requirements, such as military training and airmanship, during the summer, leaving them with only three weeks off. Both squadron assignments and classroom assignments are random, so intercollegiate athletes are interspersed among the larger cadet population.

"The conclusion was impactful and insightful to schools looking to incorporate athletes into their school more," Merrell said. "It showed that they were on to something."

While teaching at the University of Nebraska's main campus, Bredthauer said he observed that athletes associated with high-visibility sports like football and men's basketball typically stayed within their athletic social groups and systematically underperformed in the classroom. In contrast, athletes who were less driven by athletic social groups performed better academically.

"Clearly this is merely observational, but I think it's analogous to what we found at the Air Force Academy," he said. "Those students who are better integrated into the academic environment of college life are better able to perform as expected, rather than underperform because of constant distraction from the task at hand. Social groups can have a large impact on focus at school."

Bredthauer said integration is the key takeaway for civilian schools looking to replicate the Academy's results.

"If schools can create an environment where student athletes can avoid being cloistered in their myopic world of athletics ... they can go a long way toward integrating those students into the broader student body population," he said.

SPIRE volunteers attend leadership training

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123420536>

Academy chaplains and local representatives of various faith groups attended Special Program in Religious Education training Aug. 4 at the Sijan Hall Oasis to help encourage religious respect and allow cadets to freely exercise their faith.

About 60 volunteers from Buddhist, Earth-Centered, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Latter Day Saints, Catholic and Protestant groups gathered to review leadership guidelines and sign a SPIRE Memorandum of Agreement before working with cadets.

"The volunteers are like tentacles of the chapel," said Chaplain (Capt.) Amber Kiesel, SPIRE deputy director. "They help cadets become men and women with Air Force core values and allow them to exercise their first amendment right. They mentor cadets, hold religious education nights, prayer meditation nights, worship services and more."

The annual training is mandatory for volunteers, who are each approved by the Cadet Wing chaplain. Groups who regularly meet at the Academy include Youth With A Mission, Campus Crusade for Christ and Reformed University Fellowship.

SPIRE events take place Monday evenings for the religiously diverse cadet population. Religious literature shared with cadets must be vetted through the Wing chaplain's office. Guest speakers, ads and visitors must also be approved by the chaplain.

"Respect is essential to mission success," said Jimmy Covey, assistant director of SPIRE. "It is our expectation that each volunteer who attended the training understands and will show mutual respect toward all people, whether they're people of a particular faith or people of non-faith. I also believe that each one in attendance left with an understanding of, and a commitment to, the MOA under which we operate."

SPIRE promotes the Air Force core values and assists cadets in becoming leaders of character by facilitating their spiritual formation, according to SPIRE training material.

"It's important that the chaplain have this venue to address not only the issues of respect but also the issues of security and compliance to Defense Department guidelines," Covey said. "It is imperative that the volunteers apprehend and comply with pertinent policies and guidance."

Giving hope a new dimension

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123420516>

Two professors at the United States Air Force Academy have shown that respect for people who are different can be taught - and it isn't that hard.

Drs. Lauren Scharff and Michelle Butler have worked for many years to help cadets change pre-conceived notions of people with disabilities and, although they anecdotally believed good things were happening in their classes, they had not systematically tried to measure the impact of their course experiences.

"Believe it or not, there wasn't anything in the literature about how to develop and measure changes in respect for human dignity within the academic environment," Scharff said. "We'd been working on these ideas in our classes and a few years ago, we decided to create new ways to quantitatively measure the impact. We found that what we're doing does change attitudes and behavioral tendencies."

The key, the two professors say, is personal contact and experience.

Scharff is the director of the Academy's Center for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, and teaches in the Behavioral Science Department; Butler is an associate professor of Psychology in the department. Scharff takes students to the lab and has them "try-on" a disability - creating temporary blindness, deafness or the inability to walk. The lab work, she said, creates empathy for people with disabilities.

"We took other cadets on field trips," Butler said. "Some interact with people at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Others go to a rehabilitation hospital in Denver to work with, and talk to, people with brain injuries. We planned very deliberate interactions on the field trips. And they came away, not only learning empathy, but also demonstrating hope and more comfort about interactions with these groups of others."

"Hope was a new dimension not at all addressed in the literature," Scharff added. "It's not just that they learned how difficult life can be for people with disabilities - they learned that people are overcoming those difficulties. It gave them hope that people can become meaningfully engaged and contributors to society. It made a difference in their thoughts; made them realize people are basically the same."

They recorded preconceived stereotypes and anxieties about interacting with people with disabilities before the field trips. Their questionnaires asked about cadet attitudes toward people who are disabled and their accomplishments.

"After the course experiences, we recorded their thoughts again," Scharff said. "They also have to write pre- and post-reflection papers about the experiences. These papers aren't graded on 'right versus wrong' types of answers, so that cadets could feel able to openly share their thoughts. We qualitatively analyzed their responses to look for themes."

That personal contact - the conversations, the interactions with the different "others" - is what made the most difference across the multiple components of respect for human dignity.

"Once they met and interacted with the 'others,' the people who are different, their attitudes changed," Butler said. "All those stereotypes fell away. We believe that this will also be the case with different groups of 'others' - people who are of different cultures or religion. We would like to share what we've done so that other instructors can incorporate similar types of experiences and measures, and we can impact more cadets."

This type of experience is essential for future leaders of the Air Force, who will travel around the world and work with all kinds of different people, she said.

Wounded warriors train for games at USAFA

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123420441>

Over 60 wounded veterans from across the country participated in the final Warrior and Invictus Games training camp here Aug. 3-7 to prepare for the fall games, motivate others and take a healthy step toward recovery.

The athletes competed in track and field, basketball, volleyball, swimming, marksmanship and wheelchair tennis to build meaningful connections and experience positive healing through their challenges.

"Most of us here have been in a very dark place, sometimes for short periods of time, sometimes for long periods of time," said retired Air Force Capt. Jeff Haugh, a camp participant. "If you can find a way to look beyond your own challenges and find a way to see the bigger picture, you can help inspire someone else. I think that is the most valuable piece of this program."

Haugh, a '99 Academy graduate, suffered a traumatic brain injury and spine injury during a 2003 deployment to Iraq.

"I was working as an Office of Special Investigations agent when I was involved in a high-speed vehicle accident and had to medically retire from the Air Force because of my injuries," he said. "After I learned I had a significant brain injury, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, induced by the TBI. It's a tricky disease because it's very unpredictable, and I don't always show something is wrong with me. It's been a challenging road to recovery and I consider the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program to be a key in my recovery."

During his recovery, Haugh's wife was diagnosed with stage 3 Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system.

"She is a cancer survivor," he said. "Some of my recovery was put on hold because of her diagnosis. Her last chemotherapy treatment was in 2005. She is doing well and we have three daughters. I'm grateful to have a healthy family who is very supportive."

Thirty-eight-year-old Haugh will compete in sitting discus, shot put and recumbent biking at the Warrior Games Sept. 28-Oct. 4 here and at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He said he thinks adaptive sports are a great outlet for healing.

"I think the Warrior Games are a healthy choice for combat veterans in terms of taking ownership of their own recovery," he said. "The most valuable aspect is not the competition or medals but the camaraderie. We build lifetime bonds through the program and the most valuable piece is to inspire others."

Haugh said he hopes the games bring as much awareness to non-visible disabilities as visible ones.

"Many veterans have combat injuries that aren't physically noticeable," he said. "Not all wounded warriors are missing a limb. A good number of them have brain injuries or are struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."

The day Haugh arrived to the camp marked 20 years since he attended the Prep School in 1994. As a cadet, he played on the Academy's football team and returned to the Prep School to coach football from 1999-2000.

"Athletics have always been a part of my life," he said. "It's an honor not only to be back around fellow Airmen, but to be doing something athletic again is inspiring. Athletics are not only good for your body but good for general healing."

Haugh, a Maryland resident, is chairman of a not-for-profit program called Racing for Veterans. The program provides grants to wounded service members for rehabilitation.

"There are many people alive today because of the Wounded Warrior Program," he said. "I'm proud to be a part of something that can actually save people's lives. For me, the most beneficial piece has been the opportunity to provide some sort of inspiration, comfort or value to someone else struggling."

The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program was developed in 2009; the adaptive sports program was created in 2010, according to Steve Otero, Air Force Wounded Warrior Program communications and marketing coordinator.

"The Warrior Games is our Defense Department's underservice competition," he said. "It's not so much of a competition rather an adaptive sporting event designed to encourage healthy recovery options. It's to encourage the morale of a discharged veteran and continually reinforce to them that their service will encourage a recovery in a healthy and holistic way."

Athletes train twice a year at the Academy for the Warrior Games. This year, 23 Airmen attended the camp to train for the Invictus games held in United Kingdom. They will represent the U.S. at the event Sept. 10-14.

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Academy hosts STEM educators

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123420418>

Teachers from across the nation took part in the Air Force and the For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology Leadership Experience here, Aug. 4 - 5, to encourage Science, Technology, Engineering and Math studies students.

During the visit, teachers from 24 states attended character and leadership classes to learn how to better inspire students in their respective states.

The event was sponsored in part by the Air Force Recruiting Service with two goals in mind - to garner national STEM support and make teachers aware of what the Academy offers prospective cadets.

"First, we're part of this bigger vision that the Air Force has to support STEM," said Col. Marcus Johnson, AFRS chief of strategic marketing. "Our effort in supporting (STEM) is to show these teachers how we grow leaders in the Air Force."

The teachers also toured the Mechanical, Aeronautic and Astronautic labs and took part in a

Cyber Warrior Experience.

"We could have shown classrooms, but we wanted to provide a more interactive and hands-on experience, which the teachers are accustomed to when working with their robotics teams," Johnson said.

This was the first visit to the Academy for the teachers.

"I thought it was for training people to protect our country," said Darcie Fregoe, a sixth-grade teacher of earth science at Madison Elementary School, Massena, N.Y. "I had no idea that the Air Force Academy was a STEM-oriented college. That was eye opening for me."

Admissions staff here explained the Academy enrollment process in the hopes the teachers would share the information with their students.

"I come from rural New York where a lot of students qualify and are brilliant and academically challenged and want to go to college, but their family just can't afford it," Fregoe said. "I have brilliant students in my robotics program who want to go to college and now I have an option for them."

Johnson said he received several positive comments from the group during its first day here.

"If we stopped our visit right now, it would be a success," he said. "Teachers are already excited to go back and tell their students about the experience here. We have given them a road map and GPS so it is really hard to get lost."

Superintendent addresses upper-class cadets as academic year starts

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123420158>

Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson met with cadets in the classes of 2015 and 2016, Aug. 4, to welcome them back to the Academy and to discuss how the Academy's leaders intend to make the Academy experience more meaningful in the coming academic years.

"You guys are the officers and senior NCOs of the cadet wing," Johnson said, referring to the roles assigned to cadets in their senior and junior years, respectively. "We're going to do this together, and it's going to be a great year."

Johnson said the Class of 2018, which the upper-class cadets would lead into the coming year, is ready to be challenged. The class size on inprocessing day was 1,206, out of over 9,000 applicants. The average basic cadet's GPA was 3.85, and about one in five had 4.0 GPAs.

"They're fired up," she said. "You're going to be the ones who will help lead them forward." Johnson also told the cadets that they will be given more freedom but will also be held more accountable.

"If we overmanage and overschedule you to the point where you can't exercise your judgment," she said, "how can we expect you to walk out the door and be ready to go? You've got to own (your schedule), and we'll hold you accountable to do the right thing. We want you to feel like you're ready to go when you walk out the door."

Johnson said that after spending the last year focusing on the essence of the Academy -- the core aspects of its mission -- leaders will spend this academic year focusing on how the Academy conducts its mission.

"We should deliver our mission in a way that makes this place more meaningful for you and more meaningful for the Air Force," she said. "This is what Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh III asked me to do about two years ago. He said, 'When you come out here, start with a clean sheet and ask yourself, if you had to start a new academy now, what would you do?'"

One step in that process includes making the Center for Character and Leadership Development available as a resource, not just for the Academy, but for the broader Air Force and the nation, Johnson said. Another includes giving cadets a sense of ownership and responsibility toward the Academy.

"If you've got skin in the game, and you own it, it means something to you," she said. "If you don't feel like you own it, it's hard to feel like you're a part of it."

The Academy's already taken some steps. The Academy is incorporating relevant leadership: more responsibility coupled with more accountability, and reinvigorating a four-class system that translates leadership theory into practice.

"The idea that doolies (freshmen) eat first is a big deal," Johnson said. "We want you to be able to take care of people and at the same time challenge them."

In addition, the Dean of Faculty mission element will review the core curriculum to make sure the classes cadets take here are relevant to the Air Force that awaits them.

"When one of you is standing up here on stage, will you be prepared for the war you're going to fight?" she said. "I graduated during the Cold War ... is that relevant now? In some ways, it's not."

Other programs the Academy's examining include the former "stop-out" program, which allowed cadets in good standing to take a year to improve academically or get more experience in a field of interest.

"They would always come back with a lot more responsibility, commitment and maturity because of the experience," she said.

These initiatives and others all aim to help cadets grow, and the Academy's leaders are open to other suggestions, Johnson said.

"What if we switch classes so you watch a lecture on your computer at night and then go do the homework in class?" she offered. "What if we do something with other colleges? How can we make this the most meaningful, challenging, rewarding thing for you so that when you walk out the door, you feel confident and ready to go?"

The general introduced a commander's intent to the cadets. Top on her list for the 2014-2015 academic year was reinforcing a culture of commitment and climate of respect.

"This is the standard to which we hold each other," she said. "We're an elite team, and we're going to get it right. That's on you now. It's on the permanent party as well: We have to get it right for you. But that commitment to the values of our Air Force and a climate of respect, that's everywhere: That's on the Terrazzo; that's in the dorm rooms."

Cadets must hold themselves to a high standard because the entire country holds them -- and this institution -- to a high standard, Johnson said. She summarized an article in the Colorado Springs Gazette Aug. 3 that detailed the fallout from a party in December 2011.

More than 30 cadets were investigated following the party. The investigations resulted in three court-martial convictions, five cases of non-judicial punishment and dismissal from the Academy, six resignations in lieu of punishment, three discharges for behavior unrelated to the original investigation and five cases handled through the cadet disciplinary system.

Johnson discussed how situations like this, even three years later, can damage the Academy's reputation.

"This hurts our institution," she said. "This is where the commitment to something higher can help your friends from crossing a line that they can't get back from. Read the article, see what you can learn from it."

Johnson said the Academy would continue to move forward from the incident and praised the Athletic Department for the recent changes they've made.

"They're really responding," she said. "I think they're doing some good things."

The Athletic Department invited Dr. Jackson Katz to bring his Mentors in Violence Prevention program to the Academy. Cadet athletes produced and starred in a video, titled "Cadet Athletes Against Sexual Violence," pledging to create a culture free of sexual assault.

Chief Master Sgt. Maxwell Grindstaff, the Academy's command chief, also briefly addressed the cadets.

"We are turning out some incredible leaders," he said. "It's really eye-opening for me to see what you all go through out here.

"The sons and daughters of America need good leadership," Grindstaff said. "I have two sons-in-law: One's a Marine, and one's an Airman. In a year or two, you will be leading them ... you're going to do fantastic taking care of them."

Grindstaff told the cadets the Air Force needs their leadership, and so does the Air Force's Academy.

"You're going to be faced with a lot of challenges this last couple of years here," he said. "It all comes down to what the boss says, that higher calling: Why are you here? Be a good person, be a good teammate ... take care of your teammates."

Those leaders need to be ready to lead the day they graduate, the chief said.

"You need to be ready to roll on Day one," he said. "Pick the brains of your air officers commanding and your Academy military trainers. Watch leadership in action, and you'll do fine: When you get out of here next year or the year after, you'll be squared away."

Johnson concluded the superintendent's call by emphasizing her pride in the cadets, and she gave them a humorous sendoff.

"I know the hard work that goes into everything you do," she said. "Have a great year, and get a haircut."

Summer flying programs achieving success despite thunderstorms, setbacks

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123419763>

Since early June, summer Airmanship training here has been in full swing, allowing 935 cadets to get experience in soaring, powered flight and parachute operations.

Under the 306th Flying Training Group, the course completion rate for the Academy's soaring program is near 100 percent, and its number of cadet instructor pilots is at a record high.

"Summer is the best time of the year for the 306th FTG because cadets get to focus on all the aspects of our mission - airmanship, leadership and excellence," said Col. Steven Burgh, 306th FTG commander. "The cadets have been great this summer and have taken full advantage of their time. I have been very impressed with the maturity and leadership displayed by our cadet instructor pilots, and flying and demonstration team members."

This summer, 425 cadets have completed the Academy's jumping program, 300 have completed the soaring program and 210 have completed the powered flight program, according to John Tomjack, the Academy's Airmanship Program Manager.

"We are currently on track to complete 100 percent of students and expect approximately 30 percent of the students overall to solo," said Lt. Col. John Neptune, the 94th Flying Training Squadron commander.

For the first time in 15 years, Neptune said, the 94th FTS entered summer with a healthy cadet instructor pilot force.

"The cadet instructors and students have done a fantastic job of efficiently and effectively taking advantage of available flying windows," he said. "As a result, we have been able to ensure students get to enjoy the full 14 rides in the program. The only caveat is the abnormally low summer cloud ceilings and shortened fly windows that have forced us to fly more pattern sorties than normal on multiple occasions, which are about 10 minutes shorter than an area sortie."

As of this year, the 94th FTS will only conduct Airmanship 251 and Basic Soaring, a 14-ride program with opportunity to solo, during the summer.

"We also started a new academic year program, AM-250, Introduction to Soaring, a four-ride exposure program for freshmen this spring," Neptune said. "It will take the place of AM-251 during the school year."

According to Lt. Col. Gregory Thornton, the 557th Flying Training Squadron commander, said the 557th FTS flying team has done a great job this summer training its nine new members through their initial qualification.

"The returning 18 members of the flying team are upgrading and flying continuation training sorties in order for the team to win their 28th-consecutive Region 1 championship this October," he said. "This year the competition will be held at the Academy's airfield."

Thornton said a recent syllabus change is allowing the flying team to perform training events in both the T-41 and T-51 aircraft, whereas before, they were restricted to only one model.

"This provides greater flexibility and enhances their training capabilities," he said.

Thornton said the AM-420 powered flight program has struggled this summer due to the T-53 aircraft not being equipped with an air conditioner or the ability to receive outside Ram Air.

"Thunderstorm development has actually helped us this year due to our cockpit cooling issue," he said. "The thunderstorm developments create cloud cover, which reduces the inside cockpit temperature and allows us to fly until the thunderstorms intensify to the point where we can no longer fly."

Airmanship-419 was recently suspended due to manning shortages, Thornton said.

"This should allow us to be successful with AM-420," he said. "Our goal is for every student to complete nine rides and have the opportunity to solo."

Lt. Col. Michael Jacobson, the 98th Flying Training Squadron commander, said thunderstorms have had a significant impact on the jump wings rate at 53-percent compared to greater than 90 percent the last two summers.

"Despite the weather, 406 students who graduated ground training had the opportunity to stand in the door (standing in the open door of the plane, deciding whether to stay or jump) at least once."

AAFES FLOWER SHOP: Petals & Blooms is the only flower shop on The Air Force Academy with access to the cadet area. Petals & Blooms have taken over for Cadet Treats. We have had the honor of serving the cadets for the last 7 years and know how important the milestones are in the cadets' experience. We are a full service flower shop with cut floral arrangements, plants, gift baskets with your choice of fruits, snacks or baked goods, balloons and stuffed animals. Thank you for your support of our shop and we look forward to serving you for years to come. Kindly, DeNyse/Owner Petals & Blooms (719)-472-8589 petalsnblooms.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Date USAFA can start to receive them is (TBD). The checks would still be made payable to US Treasury and memo the student's full name and social security number. Mail checks to: HQ USAFA/FMF, 2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2200, USAF Academy CO 80840-5035. Cadet pay's phone number is (719) 333-6994 if you have specific questions. (More specific information should be coming out within the next month or so)

THANKSGIVING BREAK INFO: 25– 30 Nov 14. Cadets' are allowed to depart after their Last Military Duty (LMD). Normally this is their last class but not before 1230 on 25 Nov 14 as the noon formation for lunch is the LMD if the cadet doesn't have afternoon classes. No flights earlier than 2.5 hours after last class from Colorado Springs or 4 hours after last class out of Denver. Shuttle Bus information for the Thanksgiving Break is below. Buses leave ON TIME from the base of the Core Values Ramp. Cadets must land in Denver at least 3 hours prior to check-in time at 7pm on 30 Nov 14.

WINTER BREAK INFO: The official release is Saturday, 20 Dec 14 – 4 Jan 15. That being said, you need to check with your cadet. If they take their last final on Wednesday, they can leave after their final with AOC's permission (standard release is normally given). Your cadet can go into the computer system (CAMIS) and look up each of his or her classes and see when their finals are. The shuttle bus services schedule is below through Outdoor Recreation for a cost. The Return date is 4 Jan by 7pm. Cadets must land in Denver at least 3 hours prior to check-in time at 7pm.

THANKSGIVING BREAK SHUTTLE BUS SECHEDULE:

2014 CADET THANKSGIVING BUS TRANSPORTATION

Tickets on sale starting October 14 thru November 14, 2014

No refunds or changes after November 14, 2014

All seats sold after Nov 14 sold on space available basis

MUST HAVE AT LEAST 15 PAID SIGN-UPS FOR A BUS TO RUN...

Cadets will be notified by E-mail about cancellations or changes.

Or call (719) 333-4602 for updates....All dates, times subject to cancellation per demand

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DEPART BASE OF RAMP (northeast corner below Terrazzo, Cadet Area)

25 NOV 2014: 0400, 0500, 0800, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800

26 NOV 2014: 0400, 0500

RETURN 30 Nov 2014: 1200, 1230, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800



Type of Ticket

Purchase Tickets 14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14

Round Trip

\$45.00

One Way

\$30.00

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

DEPART BASE OF RAMP (northeast corner of Terrazzo, Cadet Area)

25 NOV 2014: 0415, 0515, 0815, 1315, 1415, 1515, 1615, 1715

26 NOV 2014: 0415, 0515

RETURN 30 Nov 2014: 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800

Type of Ticket

Purchase Tickets 14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14

Round Trip

\$30.00

One Way

\$20.00

- 1) Since this is a high volume time at the airports, allow additional time to check luggage or take only one carry-on bag.
- 2) Only bus times that meet sign up requirements are guaranteed a ride. Standby space may be available at the departure site.

BUSES DO SELL OUT PLEASE PURCHASE EARLY!!

DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

- 1) Cadet Buses leave from the BASE OF THE RAMP ON TIME! Luggage is limited to one large bag or two medium bags and one carry-on bag. Cadets are responsible for loading their own luggage onto the bus. Luggage should be clearly marked. REMEMBER all Cadets luggage looks the same.
- 2) Please allow at least 2 hours for driving time to Denver International Airport.
- 3) Please allow at least 1 hour for driving time to Colorado Springs Airport.
- 4) Additional departure times will be set up if the date or time for release or cadets LMD changes.

RETURNING INFORMATION:

- 1) There will be standby tickets sold at DIA for \$35.00, COS \$25.00 but there is NO GUARANTEE a seat will be available!!
- 2) Meet at DIA level 5 East baggage claim Door 505
- 3) Colo Spgs-ORC rep will be present outside baggage claim area

******* (Note: this information for all shuttle bus purchases Thanksgiving/Winter)**

Vandenberg ORC-ROOM ICI5 (719) 333-4602

***Note- Cadets must purchase tickets in person,
Parents may purchase a bus ticket by phone for their Cadets with a
MC or VISA. Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 08:00 to 17:00 Closed Wed, Weekends and Holidays**

***Note All dates and times are subject to change or cancellation
Revised 07/14/2014**

2014 PREP SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BREAK

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Tickets on sale starting Tues, Oct 14 thru Fri, Nov 14, 2014

No refunds or changes after Nov 14, 2014

All seats sold after Nov 14 sold on space available basis

MUST HAVE AT LEAST 15 PAID SIGN-UPS FOR A BUS TO RUN...

Prep school students will be notified by E-mail about cancellations or changes.

Or call (719) 333-4602 for updates....All dates, times subject to cancellation per demand

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DEPART from Prep school parking lot Nov 26, 2014: 0930

RETURN 30 Nov: 1430



Type of Ticket

**Purchase Tickets
14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14**

Round Trip

\$45.00

One Way

\$30.00

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

DEPART from Prep school parking lot Nov 26, 2014: 0945

RETURN 30 Nov: 1430

Type of Ticket

**Purchase Tickets
14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14**

Round Trip

\$30.00

One Way

\$20.00

WINTER BREAK BUS SCHEDULE:

2014 CADET WINTER BREAK BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus tickets will go on sale starting October 14 thru December 5, 2014. All seats sold after DEC 5 sold on space available basis. Cadets will be notified by E-mail about cancellations or changes.

Please call (719) 333-4602 for updates....All dates, times subject to cancellation per demand.

MUST HAVE AT LEAST 15 PAID SIGN-UPS FOR A BUS TO RUN...

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

DEPART BASE OF RAMP (northeast corner below Terrazzo, Cadet Area)

15 DEC 2014: 1300, 1600, 1800

16 DEC 2014: 0400, 0800, 1300, 1600, 1800

17 DEC 2014: 0400, 0800, 1300, 1600, 1800

18 DEC 2014: 0400, 0800, 1300, 1600, 1800

19 DEC 2014: 0400, 0800

RETURN 04 JAN 2015: 1200, 1230, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800



Type of Ticket

Purchase Tickets

14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14

Round Trip

\$45.00

One Way

\$30.00

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

DEPART BASE OF RAMP (northeast corner of Terrazzo, Cadet Area)

15 DEC 2014: 0815, 1315, 1615, 1815

16 DEC 2014: 0415, 0815, 1315, 1615, 1815

17 DEC 2014: 0415, 0815, 1315, 1615, 1815

18 DEC 2014: 0415, 0815, 1315, 1615, 1815

19 DEC 2014: 0415, 0815

RETURN 04 JAN 2015: 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700, 1800

Type of Ticket

Purchase Tickets

14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14

Round Trip

\$30.00

One Way

\$20.00

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2014 PREP SCHOOL WINTER BREAK

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Tickets on sale starting Oct 14, thru Dec 5

No refunds or changes after Dec 5

All seats sold after Dec 5 sold on space available basis

MUST HAVE AT LEAST 15 PAID SIGN-UPS FOR A BUS TO RUN...

Prep school students will be notified by E-mail about cancellations or changes.

Or call (719) 333-4602 for updates....All dates, times subject to cancellation per demand

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



DEPART from Prep school parking lot Dec 18, 2014: 0930
RETURN Jan 4: 1430



Type of Ticket

Purchase Tickets
14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14

Round Trip
One Way

\$45.00
\$30.00

COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT

DEPART from Prep school parking lot Dec 18, 2014: 0945
RETURN Jan 4: 1430

Type of Ticket

Purchase Tickets
14 Oct 14 – 14 Nov 14

Round Trip
One Way

\$30.00
\$20.00

Revised 09/05/2014

Helpful Websites:

Cadet Academic Calendar website: (2014/2015 calendar)

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/academics/calendar.asp>

Cadet Curriculum Handbook (which also outlines what summer programs are available for cadets in what year):

<http://www.usafa.edu/df/data/CHB2012-2013.pdf>

Cadet Clubs (just a listing of clubs and POCs, not a schedule of where they may be):

<http://www.usafa.edu/cadetFocus/cadetClubs/>

Admissions: (parents can help us recruit future cadets):

<http://www.academyadmissions.com/>

Sports Schedules:

<http://www.goairforcefalcons.com/calendar/events/>

Association of Graduates and USAFA Endowment:

<http://www.usafa.org/>

PREP SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Below is the Point of Contact for questions for our Prep School Candidate parents.

Contact Mark Winter at (719) 333-2583, mark.winter@usafa.edu and the USAFA website below

<http://www.usafa.edu> Look under Prep School link at top right (7th tab)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Marie

ROSE MARIE NIKOVITS

Parents' Liaison

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO

(719) 333-3828 Toll Free 877-268-3383

Fax (719) 333-1433

e-mail: rose.nikovits@usafa.edu